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LAW OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF 14 JULY 1960 ON THE
PROCEDURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL

REF ID: A6254
MAIN FILE

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JPRS: 3946

CSO: 4391-D

LAW OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF 14 JULY 1960 ON THE
PROCEDURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL

/Following is a translation of Law Number 113, Sbirka
Zakonu (Journal of Laws), Section 44, 14 July 1960,
Prague, pages 337-344./

The Slovak National Council has decreed the following law:

Part I.

Introductory Provision

1.

(1) The Slovak National Council is the national organ of state power and administration in Slovakia. It assists under the direction of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in ensuring, within the framework of a uniform execution of state power and administration, the general development of the economy and culture in Slovakia.

(2) The Slovak National Council carries out its operations to the extent designated by the Constitution in such a way that it is an effective instrument of the working people in ensuring the political, economic and cultural tasks in Slovakia.

2.

The organs of the Slovak National Council are the presidium of the Slovak National Council, the chairman of the Slovak National Council and commissions of the Slovak National Council.

Part II.

The Slovak National Council

3.

Operation of the Slovak National Council

The following duties are within the sphere of activity of the Slovak National Council:

- a) to vote upon laws of the Slovak National Council in

harmony with all-state legislation in all matters of a national or regional nature, as far as they require special adjustment to ensure the general economic and cultural development of Slovakia;

b) to vote upon laws of the Slovak National Council in cases where the National Assembly empowers it to do so by law;

c) to participate in the preparation of the state plan for the development of the national economy and within the framework of the state plan to discuss general questions of the development of national economy and culture in Slovakia;

d) to discuss and approve the budget of the Slovak National Council, its organs and institutions in Slovakia directly under its administration;

e) to present bills to the National Assembly;

f) to exercise control within the boundaries of its jurisdiction;

g) to ensure within the spirit of equality favorable conditions for the general development of the lives of citizens of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality;

h) to elect the presidium of the Slovak National Council, commissions of the Slovak National Council, chairman of the Slovak Planning Commission and commissioners of the Slovak National Council;

ch) to discuss reports of the presidium, commissions and commissioners of the Slovak National Council.

4.

Sessions of the Slovak National Council

(1) The presidium of the Slovak National Council summons and adjourns sessions of the Slovak National Council. The presidium of the Slovak National Council summons sessions of the Slovak National Council at least twice a year.

(2) If during the period when the Slovak National Council is not in session at least a third of the members to the Slovak National Council request that a session of the Slovak National Council be called the presidium of the Slovak National Council is obliged to summon a session of the Slovak National Council so that it will meet within 14 days from the date the request was presented.

(3) During the sessions of the Slovak National Council the chairman of the Slovak National Council summons the Slovak National Council to individual meetings.

Procedures at the Meetings of the Slovak National Council

5.

The Slovak National Council approves upon motion from the presidium of the Slovak National Council the program of procedures and manner of discussions of individual points of the program.

6.

Speakers are as a rule given the floor in the order they request it. Each speaker has the right to speak in his native language.

7.

(1) The Slovak National Council is qualified to make decisions if more than half of all the members is present. It is necessary to have the agreement of more than half of the members present for the decisions to be valid.

(2) As a rule a vote is taken by a show of hands and a vote is taken first on the amendments and supplements to the bills.

8.

(1) Meetings of the Slovak National Council are usually open to the public.

(2) The Slovak National Council may upon suggestion from its chairman or commissioner of the Slovak National Council decide that the meeting is not open to the public.

9.

Minutes shall be taken and a stenographic report made at every meeting of the Slovak National Council. The minutes shall be certified by the chairman of the Slovak National Council and the recorder.

10.

The recording secretaries are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the minutes of meetings of the Slovak National Council and assist in verifying the results of voting.

Part III.

Presidium of the Slovak National Council

11.

(1) The presidium of the Slovak National Council is the executive organ of the Slovak National Council within the framework of its jurisdiction.

(2) The presidium of the Slovak National Council has 16 members. It is composed of the chairman of the Slovak National Council, its vice-chairmen and other members of the presidium.

(3) The presidium of the Slovak National Council is elected by the Slovak National Council from among its membership for the entire elected period. The presidium shall continue in its functions even after the expiration of the elected period until the newly-elected Slovak National Council elects its presidium.

12.

The following duties belong to the sphere of activity of the presidium of the Slovak National Council:

a) to ensure the execution of laws and to take special care that the tasks of the state plan in Slovakia shall be equally fulfilled and in full harmony with the plan;

b) to discuss and explain the proposals of the plans for the development of the economy and culture of individual regions in Slovakia, the proposals for regional budgets and investment tasks extending beyond the regions;

c) to submit, on the basis of proposals of the financial and budget commission of the Slovak National Council and discussed in the Slovak Planning Commission, to the Slovak National Council the proposal for the budget of the Slovak National Council, its organs and institutions directly under its control in Slovakia and to decide upon the right of drawing upon it;

d) to discuss and solve in harmony with all-state interests questions of cultural policy in Slovakia; to discuss and solve questions of the cultural activity of nationalities in Slovakia;

e) to explain in the area of agricultural production the plans of the centrally administered organizations in Slovakia and the proposals of the plans of scientific and research tasks of the branch of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences;

f) to discuss the initiated bills of the Slovak National Council and to submit them with its opinion either directly or after discussion of them in the commission of the Slovak National Council to the Slovak National Council;

g) to issue the decisions and regulations on the basis of the laws of the Slovak National Council and for their execution;

- h) to submit to the Slovak National Council for discussion bills for the National Assembly;
- ch) to direct and coordinate the work of the commissions and commissioners of the Slovak National Council and to discuss their reports and prepare proposals for the session of the Slovak National Council;
- i) to control the work of the commissions of the Slovak National Council and commissioners of the Slovak National Council and to organize their controlling activity;
- j) to direct and coordinate the activity of the members of the Slovak National Council and to assist in the activity by regional associations of the members for the fulfillment of their tasks;
- k) to appoint and propose the state officials in Slovakia to the extent designated by the government;
- l) to submit to the Slovak National Council the proposal for the program of the sessions of the Slovak National Council and to propose the program and period of their meetings;
- m) to announce and guarantee by-elections to the Slovak National Council;
- n) to decide on the leave of absence of the members of the Slovak National Council;
- o) to regulate the internal organization and principles of work of the apparatus of the Slovak National Council.

13.

Procedures of the Presidium of the Slovak National Council

- (1) The presidium of the Slovak National Council meets at least once a month.
- (2) Meetings of the presidium of the Slovak National Council are not open to the public.
- (3) The presidium of the Slovak National Council is qualified to deliberate if more than half of its members is present. A majority of votes of the present members of the presidium of the Slovak National Council is necessary for the acceptance of decisions.
- (4) Minutes shall be taken at every meeting of the presidium of the Slovak National Council.

Part IV.

14.

Chairman of the Slovak National Council

The following duties belong to the sphere of activity of the chairman of the Slovak National Council:

a) on the basis of the decisions of the presidium of the Slovak National Council to call and conduct the meetings of the Slovak National Council;
b) to call and conduct meetings of the presidium of the Slovak National Council and suggest the program of their procedure;
c) to represent the Slovak National Council abroad;
d) to sign laws and decisions of the Slovak National Council;
e) to present to the Slovak National Council reports regarding the activity of the presidium of the Slovak National Council.

Part V.

Commissions of the Slovak National Council

15.

(1) The Slovak National Council shall appoint commissions of the Slovak National Council for individual areas of its activity.

(2) The commissions of the Slovak National Council are the initiating, controlling and executing organs of the Slovak National Council.

16.

(1) The Slovak National Council shall appoint these commissions of the Slovak National Council:

The Slovak Planning Commission;

The Finance and Budget Commission of the Slovak National Council;

Commission of the Slovak National Council for Agriculture;

Commission of the Slovak National Council for Construction;

Commission of the Slovak National Council for Education and Culture;

Commission of the Slovak National Council for Health;

Legal Commission of the Slovak National Council, and

Mandate Commission of the Slovak National Council.

(2) To discuss designated questions the Slovak National Council may appoint temporary commissions of the Slovak National Council.

17.

(1) The Slovak National Council shall designate the number of members on individual commissions of the Slovak National Council and appoint the chairmen of the commissions and their members.

(2) The Slovak National Council shall appoint the members of the commissions of the Slovak National Council for the entire elected period and may recall them at any time.

(3) The members of the commissions of the Slovak National Council are members of the Slovak National Council and the political, economic, cultural and other workers, as a rule two thirds of the members of the commissions of the Slovak National Council, are members of the Slovak National Council.

(4) Only members of the Slovak National Council may be members of the mandate commission of the Slovak National Council.

18.

(1) As a rule the Slovak National Council shall appoint a commissioner of the Slovak National Council as chairman of a commission of the Slovak National Council.

(2) The vice-chairman of the Slovak National Council is chairman of the Slovak Planning Commission.

19.

The following duties belong to the commissions of the Slovak National Council:

a) to follow-up the fulfillment of the tasks resulting from the economic and cultural development of Slovakia, to discuss and decide on them, to assist in their execution and to explain their decisions and proposals to the Slovak National Council and to its presidium;

b) to share in the working out and judgment of proposals submitted to the Slovak National Council and its presidium;

c) to follow up and control the manner in which the decisions of the party and government and the decisions and provisions of the Slovak National Council and its presidium are being executed;

d) to discuss and explain in their areas the fulfillment of the plan of the development of national economy and culture in Slovakia, to mobilize the workers for the fulfillment of the tasks and to propose measures for the removal of deficiencies;

e) to discuss on their own initiative the tasks which are placed upon them by the law of the Slovak National Council, decisions of the Slovak National Council and its presidium, as well as questions which are in their sphere of activity in the Slovak National Council;

f) to decide on matters regarding the institutions directly under the control of the Slovak National Council as long as these decisions do not belong to the Slovak National Council or its presidium.

20.

In their activity the commissions of the Slovak National Council depend on cooperation of the workers and their organizations, work closely especially with the Revolutionary Trade-Union Movement, make use of the experiences, reminders and suggestions of the workers for their work.

21.

The Slovak Planning Commission

(1) The Slovak Planning Commission is an organ of the Slovak National Council and the regional organ of the State Planning Commission.

(2) The duties of the Slovak Planning Commission are:

a) to work out on the basis of directives of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the government, according to the suggestions of the State Planning Commissions in cooperation with it and with the ministries, regional national committees in Slovakia proposals for the general development of national economy in Slovakia within the framework of long-term, five-year and annual plans for the development of national economy and to submit them to the Slovak National Council and to the State Planning Commission;

b) to submit to the State Planning Commission proposals, analyses, and bases referring to the general development of the economy, development of individual branches of production, the growth of the material and cultural level of the inhabitants, placement of working forces and development of individual areas in Slovakia.

(3) The government in a special statute shall designate the extent of the activity and organizational structure of the Slovak Planning Commission.

22.

The Mandate Commission of the Slovak National Council

The mandate commission of the Slovak National Council prepares and submits to the Slovak National Council proposals for the verification of the validity of the elections of members of the Slovak National Council.

Procedures of the Commissions of the Slovak National Council

23.

(1) The chairman of a commission of the Slovak National Council summons and conducts the statutory and other meetings of a commission of the Slovak National Council.

(2) The commissions of the Slovak National Council meet according to an approved plan of work and according to need.

(3) Commissions of the Slovak National Council shall elect a vice-chairman and recording secretary from among the members of the Slovak National Council for the statutory meetings.

24.

A commission of the Slovak National Council is qualified to act if more than half of its members is present. The agreement of more than half of the members present is necessary for the validity of the decisions.

25.

(1) Meetings of the commissions of the Slovak National Council are not open to the public. Upon suggestion from the chairman of the Slovak National Council or the chairman of a commission of the Slovak National Council the discussions of a commission of the Slovak National Council may be declared secret.

(2) In such a case in addition to the members of the commission of the Slovak National Council and members of the presidium of the Slovak National Council other persons may be present only with the agreement of the chairman of the Slovak National Council or the chairman of the pertinent commission of the Slovak National Council.

26.

Commissions of the Slovak National Council may create sub-commissions for the preparation of certain questions. The composition of the sub-commission is designated by the commission of the Slovak National Council in such a way that various opinions of the pertinent question may be ensured. The commission of the Slovak National Council shall designate as chairman of the sub-commission one of its own members. The rest of the members of the sub-commission are not required to be members of the commission of the Slovak National Council.

27.

(1) Commissions of the Slovak National Council may invite to their meetings additional co-workers, such as Slovak National Council members who are not members of the commission, as well as other workers, such as technicians, scientists, workers of the state and agricultural apparatus and representatives of organizations of workers.

(2) Members of the Slovak National Council who are not members of the commissions of the Slovak National Council may be present at the discussions of the commissions of the Slovak National Council or sub-commissions, as long as they are not declared secret, and they have an advisory voice.

28.

(1) Commissions of the Slovak National Council work together and help each other in their work.

(2) If the matter requires it the commissions of the Slovak National Council may deliberate jointly and present to the Slovak National Council and its presidium joint reports or proposals.

29.

Commissions of the Slovak National Council may request from organs of the state administration and other state organs explanations, information and other supporting information which they need for their activity. For this purpose they may also conduct investigations in the areas of their activity. Sub-commissions also have the same privileges.

30.

(1) Commissions of the Slovak National Council submit reports of their activity to the Slovak National Council and its presidium.

(2) Commissions of the Slovak National Council submit their own topics to the presidium of the Slovak National Council which will discuss them and submit a report regarding them to the Slovak National Council.

31.

If the decision or provision of a commission of the Slovak National Council is contradictory to the decisions or provisions of higher organs, then the presidium of the Slovak National Council may reject it.

Part VI.

Members of the Slovak National Council

32.

Members of the Slovak National Council have the right:

- a) to submit to the Slovak National Council bills of the Slovak National Council and other proposals;
- b) to present questions to the commissioners of the Slovak National Council, the chairman of the Slovak National Council and the presidium of the Slovak National Council. Questions may be verbal or in writing; the persons questioned must reply to the questions within 30 days;
- c) to request from organs of the state administration and other organs explanations necessary for their activity.

33.

Members of the Slovak National Council are obliged:

- a) to work in their electoral area, to submit to their electors regular accounts of their activity and give them reports of the activity of the Slovak National Council; to explain to the voters the significance of laws approved by the National Assembly and the Slovak National Council and to exert such an influence that state and economic organs and the citizens shall observe the laws; in daily life to verify how the laws are being executed and how effective they are;
- b) to take care in their work of the proposals, complaints and desires of the citizens and to make use of the experiences gained in contacts with the citizens in the Slovak National Council and its organs;
- c) to work closely with the national committees and organizations of workers and to assist them in executing the laws and decisions of the party and government especially by winning over the citizens of their electoral districts for the active fulfillment of the tasks of socialist reconstruction and the development of the creative forces of the workers.

34.

- (1) Members of the Slovak National Council are obliged actively and with initiative to participate in all the work of the Slovak National Council, especially the meetings of the Slovak National Council and its commissions and sub-commissions. Every member of the Slovak National Council is by principle obliged to work on some commission of the Slovak National Council.

(2) If a member of the Slovak National Council is unable to participate in the work of the Slovak National Council or its organs he must have an excuse.

(3) A member of the Slovak National Council may request for serious reasons a leave of absence from the presidium of the Slovak National Council.

35.

Members of national committees and citizens and organizations of workers shall support the members of the Slovak National Council in their work and assist them in the fulfillment of their tasks.

Regional Association of Members and Council of Members of the Slovak National Council

36.

(1) In the interest of the best execution of their work members of the Slovak National Council elected on the territory of a pertinent region are associated in a regional association of members.

(2) At the meetings of the regional associations of members directives for the work of members of the Slovak National Council in their electoral districts are discussed, their activity is coordinated, methods of their work are evaluated, experiences from their activity are exchanged and generalized and further tasks are designated.

37.

The presidium of the Slovak National Council and representatives of regional associations of members -- members of the Slovak National Council -- form the council of members of the Slovak National Council. Each regional association of members sends one representative to the council of members of the Slovak National Council. The chairman of the Slovak National Council may invite to the council of members of the Slovak National Council additional members of the Slovak National Council.

38.

(1) The council of members of the Slovak National Council assists the presidium of the Slovak National Council in verifying the orderly course of work of the Slovak National Council, in coordinating the work of regional associations of members and in following up and coordinating the activity of members of the Slovak National Council in electoral districts.

(2) The chairman of the Slovak National Council directs the work of the council of members of the Slovak National Council.

Part VII.

Procedures on Bills

39.

Bills of the Slovak National Council may be presented by the members, commissions and presidium of the Slovak National Council.

40.

(1) All bills of the Slovak National Council submitted for their discussion must contain in a precise statement what the Slovak National Council is to decide, and they must be accompanied by a budget regarding the financial outlay of the bill with a proposal for covering the necessary expenditures, all this in harmony with the budget law.

(2) Whether or not a bill of the Slovak National Council, presented by the members or an individual member of the Slovak National Council, is to become the subject of deliberations of the Slovak National Council will be decided by the presidium of the Slovak National Council. If the presidium of the Slovak National Council rejects the bill the members (member) of the Slovak National Council may request that the bill be placed on the program of discussions at the next meeting of the Slovak National Council. The Slovak National Council shall decide regarding such a request by a vote without debate.

41.

Bills of the Slovak National Council which are to become the subject of discussions of the Slovak National Council shall be assigned by the presidium of the Slovak National Council to the proper commission of the Slovak National Council, if it does not keep it for its own deliberation or if the Slovak National Council itself will not discuss it.

42.

(1) For the discussion of a bill of the Slovak National Council assigned to a commission of the Slovak National Council a reporter shall be designated by the chairman of the commission who shall present a report to the Slovak National Council regarding the results of the discussion of the commission of the Slovak National

Council. In addition to the chief reporter, a reporter for individual sections may also be designated.

(2) If several commissions of the Slovak National Council are discussing the same bill of the Slovak National Council the report may be given by the reporter or reporters who were agreed upon by the chairmen of the commissions of the Slovak National Council.

43.

Laws of the Slovak National Council shall be announced by the presidium of the Slovak National Council within 14 days after their approval. They are announced in the Journal of Laws of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Statutory Meetings of the Slovak National Council

44.

(1) Members of the Slovak National Council shall meet after their election for the first statutory meeting of the Slovak National Council.

(2) The present chairman of the Slovak National Council shall summon the members of the Slovak National Council to a statutory meeting not later than 4 weeks after elections.

45.

(1) The statutory meeting of the Slovak National Council, until the presidium of the newly-elected Slovak National Council is elected, shall be conducted by the present chairman of the Slovak National Council, or by one of the vice-chairmen of the Slovak National Council, this being done even when they are not members of the newly-elected Slovak National Council.

(2) The presiding officer shall receive the pledge of the members of the Slovak National Council, present a report of the activity of the presidium of the Slovak National Council for the period since the last session of the Slovak National Council and conduct elections of the chairman of the Slovak National Council, its vice-chairmen and other members of the presidium of the Slovak National Council.

46.

(1) Immediately after the election of the presidium of the Slovak National Council the newly-elected chairman of the Slovak National Council shall take over the conduct of the meeting; he shall accept the pledge of the temporary chairman, if he is a

member of the newly-elected Slovak National Council, and shall conduct elections of the secretaries and the mandate commission of the Slovak National Council.

(2) At the statutory meeting of the Slovak National Council the Slovak National Council shall elect the commissions of the Slovak National Council and the chairmen of individual commissions of the Slovak National Council. At the same time the Slovak National Council shall elect from among the members of the presidium of the Slovak National Council commissioners of the Slovak National Council.

Part VIII.

Apparatus of the Slovak National Council

47.

(1) As the executive apparatus of the Slovak National Council and its organs the following departments of the Slovak National Council are established:

Apparatus of the Slovak Planning Commission;
Department of the Slovak National Council for Financial Matters;
Department of the Slovak National Council for State Control;
Department of the Slovak National Council for Agriculture;
Department of the Slovak National Council for Construction;
Department of the Slovak National Council for Education and Culture;
Department of the Slovak National Council for Health, and
Department of the Slovak National Council for Justice.

(2) The vice-chairman of the Slovak National Council as chairman of the Slovak Planning Commission is the head of the apparatus of the Slovak Planning Commission.

(3) Commissioners of the Slovak National Council are at the head of departments of the Slovak National Council.

48.

For the auxiliary organizational, administrative and technical work the presidium of the Slovak National Council shall establish joint auxiliary and functional groups of the Slovak National Council. The presidium of the Slovak National Council also regulates the internal organization of the departments of the Slovak National Council and the joint auxiliary and functional groups of the Slovak National Council.

49.

(1) The apparatus of the Slovak Planning Commission, departments of the Slovak National Council and joint auxiliary and functional groups shall form a unified apparatus of the Slovak National Council. The departments of the Slovak National Council are also the apparatus of the pertinent commissions of the Slovak National Council.

(2) In their activity the departments of the Slovak National Council are guided by the directives of the Slovak National Council, its presidium, the chairman of the Slovak National Council, commissions of the Slovak National Council and the appropriate commissioners of the Slovak National Council.

Part IX.

General and Concluding Provisions

50.

The internal relations and further rules of activity of the Slovak National Council and its organs shall be regulated by the Slovak National Council or its presidium by decisions within the framework of these procedures and functions.

51.

The law of the Slovak National Council number 8/1954, Journal of Laws, Slovak National Council, on the procedures and functions of the Slovak National Council, the text of the law of the Slovak National Council number 3/1956 Journal of Laws, Slovak National Council, and the law of the Slovak National number 27/1948 Journal of Laws, Slovak National Council, on the Office of the Slovak National Council, are repealed.

52.

This law takes effect on the day of publication; the presidium of the Slovak National Council shall execute it.

(signed) Strehaj

5026

- END -